

PRINT**APPLICATION FORM**

School Number 778672
Regional Office Thunder Bay Regional Office

PARENTS REACHING OUT (PRO) GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS**Due By: June 11, 2010****Name of School Board:** Thunder Bay CDSB

School Information
Name St Bernard Catholic Elementary School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elem <input type="checkbox"/> Sec
Address 655 River St,Thunder Bay,P7A3S5
Phone no. (807)344-8321 Fax no. (807)345-4954 E-mail address gczaczko@tbcdsb.on.ca
Principal Ginny Czaczkowski
School Council Chair Catherine Adams
Name of Project St. Bernard Literacy Fair: Working Together to Eliminate Barriers to Parent Involvement in Literacy

Do you have a partner?(Please check)**Yes**☒ **No**

Partner Information (if applicable)		
Name of School/Organization		
Address		
Phone no.	Fax no.	E-mail address
Name of Contact Person		

Name of School/Organization

Address		
Phone no.	Fax no.	E-mail address
Name of Contact Person		
Total number of partners: 0		

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PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Indicate the challenge(s) to parent engagement being addressed by your project:

- ☒ **communication**
- ☒ **geography**
- ☒ **new parents to system**
- ☒ **other (please specify)**

Barriers to parental involvement

2. Select up to three statements that describe the goal of your project:

Enhances parent involvement with their child;Highlights the school as an important resource for parents in the community;Supports student learning at home

3. Outline the steps to be followed in the process in order to meet your goal. Indicate what, how, who and when it will be done.

<p>i) What will be done?</p> <p>a) Help all families establish home environments to support children in literacy (i.e., reading, writing, and numeracy) development.</p> <p>b) Forge a stronger home-school partnership by acknowledging each partner's contribution to student literacy achievement.</p> <p>c) Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen family practices relating to student's literacy learning and development.</p> <p>d) Develop and make available literacy resources containing activities that parents can use at home to promote and foster literacy development. These Literacy Kits will be available using parent sign out and focus on reading, writing, and numeracy by way of instructional books and DVDs, in addition to an instructional manual comprising multisensory instructional strategies from teachers, resource personnel, and instructional books.</p> <p>e) Teach parents by modeling and demonstrating literacy strategies (highlighted from Instructional Books/manuals from Literacy Kits).</p>
<p>ii) Who will do it?</p> <p>- Joel Facca, Teacher-Librarian, is actively involved in collaborating with teachers and parents on literacy programming that provide opportunities for student success and will be coordinating participation with classroom teachers, as well as, co-organizing this program.</p> <p>- Mike Filipetti, Special Education Teacher, has vast knowledge and teaching experience with First Nations students, literacy assessment and remediation. He will be a resource person for this program.</p> <p>- Ginny Czaczkowski, Principal, is a longtime supporter of literacy initiatives that promote parent involvement and encourage student success and will be supporting this program.</p> <p>- Katrina Jones, School Council Member, has extensive experience working with</p>

students with moderate to severe reading difficulties and will be responsible for data collection and analysis, as well as, co-organizing this program.
 - Catherine Adams, Catholic School Council Chair, will be responsible for parental and community involvement.

iii) How will it be done?

- Recognize challenges faced by parents attempting to foster literacy development in the home through data collected from questionnaires and focus groups.
- Recognize and reinforce the importance of parents as mentors and of homes as learning environments, by teaching (i.e., through modeling and demonstration) parents at the Literacy Fair, research-based, multisensory, literacy strategies that will help them support, nurture, and assist their child in literacy development within the home learning environment.
- Recognize the importance of the school as a friend, by encouraging parents to use the school's Learning Commons (i.e., school library) for support, guidance, and resources to assist them with literacy development at home.
- Invite local community organizations to speak about the services and resources they have available for parents to help foster literacy at home.
- Make sure that all information for parent's usage is clear, usable, and linked to children's success in school.

iv) When will it be done?

Term 1 (Sept. - Nov. 2010)

- Establishment of Library-Parent Advisory Committee.
- Handout questionnaires to parents at school open house to collect information on strengths, weaknesses, learning styles, and home learning environment.
- All students' reading achievement baselines assessed, calculated, and recorded.
- Order resources for Literacy Kits and start compiling instructional strategies for parents' manual.
- Put call out for volunteers from local high school and school community.

Term 2 (Dec. to Mar. 2011)

- Hold meeting(s)/training sessions for volunteers.
- Literacy Fair held on January 27, 2011 to mark Family Literacy Day.

Term 3 (Apr. to June 2011)

- Students' reading achievements tested, calculated, recorded, and compared to baselines from Term 1 for those whose parents have been participating in project.
- Invite parents to participate in focus group with an emphasis on successes and failures of the project, and identifying ways to improve it for the next school year.

v) Why do you want to organize this project?

Within the St. Bernard School community, over 50% of parents have voiced their concerns over wanting to support their child's learning at home but not having the means to. Specifically, they lack the know-how, resources, time, and/or financial means to do so. This presents an enormous barrier to parental involvement with student literacy development, because it makes the idea of creating a literacy-rich learning environment at home unattainable.

Research has demonstrated the positive, long-term affects (e.g., child more prepared to enter kindergarten) of parental involvement within the home setting on children's literacy development. By encouraging parents to use their strengths, talents, and cultural backgrounds, along with the knowledge, confidence, and resources to foster these types of learning environments, we hope to provide opportunities for parents to realize the importance of literacy development at home. As it is a means to supplement and reinforce concepts learnt at school.

4. Does the project support a ministry initiative? Please select all that apply?

Aboriginal Education Strategy/First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework;English Language Learners;Equity and Inclusive Education

5. Indicate the steps you will follow when evaluating the success of your project.

During Term 1, teacher will assess and calculate baseline reading achievement levels using criterion-referenced reading assessments. These reading levels will be reassessed during Term 3 for those students whose parent(s) have been participating in this project, using the same measures. The scores will be compared to see if an increased parental involvement has been successful in improving student reading achievement scores. Likewise, writing and numeracy improvements will be measured based on comparison of report card marks from Term 1 and Term 3.

Frequency of parent usage of the Learning Commons will be collected and compared to use post-Literacy Fair. Additionally, parent feedback will be collected from the comment book located within each Literacy Kit, as well as, from focus groups at the end of the school year, to debrief about their experiences using the kits and the Learning Commons, and provide useful information on how to improve for the coming school year.

6. In one sentence summarize your project proposal.

Through a joint effort, the Catholic School Council and the staff of St. Bernard School are dedicated to eliminating barriers (i.e., lack of education, literacy skills, resources, time) to parental support for student literacy development at home, through modeling literacy-rich environments, providing resources that are research-based and use a multisensory approach towards literacy development, in addition to supporting parents efforts by encouraging them to make use of the resources and knowledge base contained within the Learning Commons.

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PROPOSED BUDGET INFORMATION

Please check the list of eligible and ineligible expenses in the 'Guidelines' and list all items and the estimated cost of each.

Event Program printing costs (50) 18.00

Instructional Literacy Strategies Booklets For Parents printing costs (20) 225.00

Advertising posters printing costs 50.00

Literacy Kits (6)

Reading

- The Read Aloud Handbook 6th Ed. (2006) Jim Trelease (2) 45.00

- Family Reading Night (2007) Darcy Hutchinson, Marsha Greenfeld, and Joyce Epstein (1) 50.00

- Constructing Meaning Through Kid-Friendly Comprehension Strategy Instruction [With CDROM] (2004) Nancy N. Boyles (2) 50.00

- Reading Starts With Interests DVD (2005) Words That Cook (1) 45.00

- Reading Relationships DVD (2005) Words That Cook (1) 45.00

- The Power of Language DVD (2005) Words That Cook (1) 45.00

Writing

- That's a Great Answer!: Teaching Literature Response to K-3, ELL, and Struggling Readers [With CD] (2007) Nancy N. Boyles (1) 25.00

- Writing Begins With Original Ideas DVD (2005) Words That Cook (1) 45.00

Numeracy

- Math: Facing an American Problem (1998) Marilyn Burns (2) 60.00

Parent Involvement

- School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action 3rd Edition (2008) Joyce Epstein (1) 90.00

Refreshments 150.00

Canon PG-210XL Black Ink Cartridge, High Yield (2) 70.00

Multiuse Paper, 8-1/2" x 11", Ream (3) 25.00

Total Funds Requested: 1000

Application Number: 20000636